

Algiers, Jan. 28. 1895

My darling Helen: This morning  
received yours of the 13<sup>th</sup>, together with  
Mamma's of the 14<sup>th</sup>; and indeed I had  
one of the biggest mails I have seen since  
the days in London when a dozen and a  
half was my daily allowance. First of  
all I want to thank you for making  
Mamma send for a doctor as soon as she  
began to look run down. It don't do  
to trifle with weakness, especially so  
early in the winter; and of course  
Mamma has a heavier load than usual  
this year, I being away, & left far out of  
the house, and the family in 34<sup>th</sup> St.,  
which was, after all, something that beside  
natural affection drew her out of herself.

being entirely broken up, takes a great  
deal out of a life so quiet at best.  
It will, I hope, make a great differ-  
ence when I get back, which I  
hope cannot be more than five or  
six weeks after you get this. I  
trust also that Uncle and MARRIAM  
will again establish their home in  
the city. I had a letter from her  
this morning, applying to me I wrote  
after her departure. I fancy she is  
comfortably enough placed, but she  
describes herself as very homesick.  
Miss Elsie however had joined her  
and Uncle was soon to arrive. Then  
as the lovely Southern Spring comes on  
and she gets used to her surroundings

I think she will cheer up a great deal. I wrote also Dundee  
giving him Mr. Schuff's invitation to call. I hope he will try  
it, but I never expect others, & like those whom I do. Mar-  
raine does not find Vice as pretty as Alps, in which I do  
not agree with her. I was greatly interested in your Boston ex-  
perience. Speaking generally, I have always found the people of  
that city very pleasant and very much to my taste, and it seems  
your experience is the same. Although I had so many letters  
there was surprisingly little of interest in them. Little & Brown  
are concerned to get the manuscript of Adam which the bloom  
is still on the reputation of the others. It would I suppose go  
off now like hot cakes - but I cannot do anything nor am I  
willing to hurry beyond the rate at which I can turn out my best  
work. Both the subject and my present reputation - nor I speak  
of the buyers who have a right to expect my best - demand this  
of me. Mr. Thos. Gibson Bowler talks me to task for some ex-  
pression in my article in the North American, and another  
wants information about the role of frigates in battle. The U. S.  
Consul at Beirut hopes to see the Chicago again there this year  
and congratulates me on my reception in England and the Army  
and Navy Club in Washington wants my annual subscription  
I find little to do and less interest in this place - yet if I had to  
stay out, I would be as content here as elsewhere except Vice;  
for nowhere else would I have friends. As it is, our stopping here

instead of at <sup>2</sup>Orci has turned out for the best  
in all ways. Except one - that being that, if  
them, I could have seen and helped Rosie  
and Hartman. They have had a very bad  
winter on the Riviera, Mrs. Schuff has been  
so ill that I could not have visited at the  
house, and here we have had, after the first  
two weeks, lovely weather with which we are  
rapidly getting the ship ready for inspection  
&c. I should have liked to see more of Mar-  
rain. Whom do you think I have asked  
to dinner on Wednesday? Take a long  
breath "His Serene Highness Prince  
Louis of Battenberg." I got awfully  
badged on it all, didn't know to  
address him &c. He is a captain in  
the British Navy and commands a  
ship now in port - a very quiet  
gentlemanly person of about forty. He  
has accepted. He paid me a very pretty

Compliment. I had met him once or  
twice in England, and one occasion was  
the dinner of the Royal Navy Club, at  
which I was the guest on June 2. "You  
know" he said "that no one not a British  
subject was ever before asked the guest  
of the Club, <sup>(it is over a hundred years old)</sup> and I hope we shall here-  
after stick to the rule so that you  
may remain the only one." I told him  
that in my letter home I had  
mentioned that as one of the two  
incidents, which had been to me the  
most grateful compliments I had re-  
ceived - the other, which I did not  
name then, being the Prime Minister's  
invitation to dine with him in petite  
Comité. It is a great happiness to  
me, dear, to know that you all are

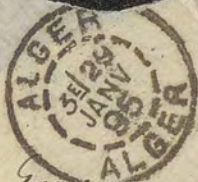
am looking so eagerly for my return. I hope I may deserve all  
your loves, and that God may smooth all difficulties that lie  
yet before me on my homeward path. Good bye my darling  
Loue & mamma and Nellie, and tell the former I hope she  
will be very obedient to her elder daughter when she is talking  
such good can of her for me.

Your loving father

Jan. 29. 8 A.M. The mail closes in an hour, &  
should leave for Marseille at noon, but as it is blowing very  
hard I have my doubts if the steamer makes her trip. It has  
turned very cold again & I feel for poor Rosie at Aix, when the  
thermometer ranges  $15^{\circ}$  lower than here. Still, they are sheltered from  
the northerly winds. Good bye again. Pray for your father, dear  
child, during these coming anxious weeks, till I am quite of the  
ship.

I see I have not mentioned that the San Francisco came  
in on Sunday morning.

Jan. 28 - 1895 -



Miss Helen Evans Mahan  
75 East 54<sup>th</sup> St  
New York

Etats-Unis d'Amérique